2nd November 1953

Dear Friend,

I have your letter dated 15th October 1953 and thank you for it. You must have received mine of the 26th October.

I anticipated your requisition for further elucidation as, in the nature of things, the letter previously sent to the President could not but be a brief document. I am sure that no conclusions have already been reached in regard to the matters on which you desire further information from me. I have no doubt that I have not been looking forward in vain to a proper appreciation of the various matters on which I have written. I shall now proceed to deal with each one of the five points raised in your letter.

(1) Regarding the allotment of lands to Sri Nanjappa, you say that unless it is shown definitely that Sri Nanjappa had taken advantage of his being the brother of the Chief Minister in getting possession of the lands or in getting them undemarcated withthe knowledge or connivance of the Chief Minister, no blame can be apportioned to Sri Hanumanthaiya. Although I should say that this is the least that can be inferred from even a bare statement of the facts of this particular matter as contained in my letter to the President and from the Report of the Venkatappa Committee, a copy of which has already been sent to the President by Sri Venkatappa who had addressed him in this behalf during the early part of this year, I can well understand your desire to have the fullest information about it, which you will find in Appendix 'A' to thisletter. I amsure you will now find no difficulty in concluding that Sri Nanjappa has taken the fullesta advantage -

of his brother bringthe Chief Minister and that Sri Hanumanthaiya is responsible not only for getting the lands allotted to him on the eve of his becoming Chief Minister but also for actually getting delivered to him,after he took office, lands which were held by poor cultivators for many years.

(2) With reference to Sri T. Channiah and the Excise Sales, the further information required by you is contained in Appendix 'B' to this letter. You will find from it that even before the dismissal of the petition of the Excise Contractor by the Home Minister and the Law Minister who heard it, the matter went before the High Court in the form of a petition for the issue of a writ of certiorari quashing the order of the Excise Commissioner. As the High Court would not issue the writ, the aggrieved person sought for a certificate to appeal to the Supreme Court. This appeal, it is found, has since been filed. The fuller facts stated in Appendix 'B' will show that the charge against Sri Channiah is established beyond any doubt. We may not be concerned so much with what the Excise Contractor may have done to obtain redress for himself as with the question of the misuse of governmental authority to deprive the highest bidder at the public auction of the Excise rights in order to bestow them on a Minister's favourite who was also present at that auction but did not offer a higher bid there and who was also a defaulter and was thus disqualified from holding a contract. This cannot but amount to a dishonest dealing on the part of the Government which exercises authority in the name of the Congress, and there would thus be no need or necessity to await the judgment of the Supreme Court.

(3) In regard to interference with the judiciary, you say that there is no adequate material to substantiate the same. I am bound to say that my first reaction was one of surprise, although I do not believe that you have made up your mind about it. I take it that you only require further elucidation, which you

will find in Appendix 'C' to this letter. I have no doubt that you will now no longer have any doubt in your mind about the truth of the charge in regard to which you can obtain confirmation about it through the Chief Justice of India. I am sure you will not be satisfied with a mere denial of charges from the Ministers as sufficient data to arrive at aconclusion on a matter of such grave import as this. You will appreciate that Ministers should not feel secure that however corrupt or dishonest they may be they will have a good time of it with the blessings of the High Command.

(4) As to Press cuttings containing the reported speeches of Sri K. Hanumanthaiya in relation to the Five Year Plan, Community Project Administration, Harijan Uplift, Khadi, Karnatak Unification, and other matters, where Sri K. Hanumanthaiya is reported to have spoken disparagingly of the Central Government, I have given all the available information in Appendix 'D' to this letter.

(5) Regarding payment for 'Blitz' advertisements, I have not mentioned that a sum of Rs.50,000/- was paid. What I have said is that calculation made on information supplied by the Government in the Legislature may show whether 10, 20, 30 or 50 thousand Rupees might have been paid. You say that Sri K. Hanumanthaiya suggests that only Rs.2,725/- have been paid. It is clear from the analysis contained in Appendix 'E' to this letter that no value at all can be attached to the assertion of Sri Hanumanthaiya that only a sum of Rs.2,725/- has been paid. This belated statement cannot be true.

(6) I have now dealt with the five points raised by you in your letter. I have not traversed any of the other equally serious, if not graver, charges made in the earlier letter, as I take it that the High Command entertains no doubt that they are proved. Else you would have alluded to them in your letter

under reply. It is noticed from your letter that only a summary of the complaints made was sent to Sri Hanumanthaiya for his comment and I venture to think that it would have been helpful if his comments thereon had been made available to ~~us~~ me.

(7) I hope that you will now be able to see that it is impossible for the Ministers to suggest that there is nothing very serious in my allegations. As Congressmen who have faith in abiding values, we owe it to the people who have reposed trust in us to impress upon you that any delay or hesitation in a proper disposal of the Mysore question by the High Command will inevitably lead to the disintegration of the Congress in this State. We have every confidence that the High Command will prevent any such catastrophe by expeditious and firm action.

(8) We must request the High Command to appreciate our extremely difficult position here. Sri Hanumanthaiya, commanding as he does the vast resources of the State, has been resorting to desparate methods for fortifying his own position with the aid of Government funds and machinery. During the recent M$P.C.C. Session he employed a Government car for securing the presence of a member whose vote he wished to have. Another member of the M.P.C.C. has been promised a grant of six acres of land which is about to become a valuable wet land, in return for his support in the organisation. Instances like this are becoming too many, which would only tend to demoralise and corrupt public life. An impression is now being created by Sri Hanumanthaiya and his supporters that the High Command does not consider that there is anything seriously wrong with the administration. You will recall to your mind that even a paper like 'The Hindu' published a tendentious report. Although in a distant place like Delhi such developments may not appear very important or serious, to us at this end the position is becoming more and more untenable and insufferable. The public of the State have begun to develop a contemptuous disregard for

the Congress organisation and its capacity to have a neat, orderly or honest administration of the State. The organisation itself is fast losing its prestige and everywhere a sense of frustration and disappointment is becoming more and more manifest. It becomes, therefore, a matter of the greatest urgency that the High Command should stem the rot and avert the disaster that is fast overtaking the Congress Party, by swift and determined action.

Sri Hanumanthaiya appears to be adopting another technique. A kind of whispering campaign has been started by him and his supporters that there is no one in Mysore who can replace him as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party. The latest instance of the propaganda in this direction is to be found in the speech delivered by Sri Karanjia at a meeting organised by the Youth League, at the instance of Sri Hanumanthaiya, on 27-10-1953 in Bangalore. Sri Karanjia was made to describe the Congressmen opposed to Sri Hanumanthaiya as belonging to the discredited rump. It is both immodest and absurd of Sri Hanumanthaiya to think that he is an indispensable man. There are many others whose honesty, integrity and talent qualify them for the leadership of the Party in a much greater measure. The feeling in the State is that any honest man would be a desirable substitutefor Sri Hanumanthaiya. Surely, the theory of Sri Hanumanthaiya'sindispensability is merely a smoke-screen and cannot stand any scrutiny.

Even as I am writing this letter to you, I have come to know of another instance of a visit by the Law Minister, Sri A.G. Ramachandra Rao, to the village which is the constituency of another Congress Legislator without any intimation to him. It is learnt that the Minister indulged in loose and undignified references to the said Legislator in his absence and in his own constituency! I shudder to think of what will happen to this great organisation to which we have all the honour to belong if its own Government

can resort to such disgraceful subterfuges for discrediting persons belonging to its own party.

I must apologise to you for the length of this letter which could not, however, be abridged on account of its importance, but I have the satisfaction of having brought to the notice of the High Command all the material facts which should be within its knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

Sri. S.N. Agarwal.

(Sd) H.K. Veerannagowda